

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9482

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASIG, AFSP
SUBJECT: FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS - COMPLIANCE
REPORT

REF: 2 FAM 135A

1. THE FOLLOWING REMARKS SUMMARIZE EMBASSY ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHICH STOCKHOLM AND GOTEBOG HAVE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE INSPECTORS' REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF NORTHERN EUROPE OF OCTOBER 1976. I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION AND THAT OF ALL OFFICIAL AMERICAN PERSONNEL TO THE INSPECTION TEAM FOR A MOST THOROUGH AND CONSTRUCTIVE SURVEY OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL OPERATIONS. MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THEIR REPORT HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLIED WITH AND MEASURES TO EFFECT MOST OTHERS ARE WELL UNDER WAY.

2. (A) RECOMMENDATION 4.5-2: THE STOCKHOLM ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SHOULD TRANSFER PREPARATION OF AT LEAST FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING SIX INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK REPORTS FROM THE ECONOMIC SECTION TO THE MARKET RESEARCH OFFICER AT THE TRADE CENTER/COMMERCIAL SECTION: 1. SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT; 2. PULP, PAPER AND PAPERBOARD; 3. LUMBER AND PROCESSED
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WOOD; 4. ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS; 5. BUSINESS MACHINES; 6. TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.
THE EMBASSY IS IN FULL ACCORD WITH THIS MOST HELPFUL RECOMMENDATION AND HAS TRANSMITTED AN AIRGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE SEEKING WASHINGTON APPROVAL FOR SUCH A TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY.
(B) RECOMMENDATION 5.5-1: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD

COMPLETE PLANS TO REARRANGE SPACE IN THE CONSULAR SECTION TO PERMIT ACROSS-THE-COUNTER SERVICES AND BETTER SUPERVISION OF ALL CONSULAR ACTIVITIES BY THE AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS.

THE EMBASSY HAS COMPLETED PLANS FOR THE REARRANGEMENT OF SPACE IN THE CONSULAR SECTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION. BIDS FROM BOTH LOCAL CONTRACTORS AND THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS (IN GERMANY) ARE IN PREPARATION AND, WHEN RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY, WILL BE SUBMITTED TO FBO FOR REVIEW. SUBJECT TO FBO FUNDING AND APPROVAL, THE ACTUAL WORK WILL BEGIN AND BE COMPLETED IN THE FEBRUARY-APRIL 1977 PERIOD.

(C) RECOMMENDATION 5.5-3: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO ELIMINATE THE SECOND OF THREE OFFICER POSITION (NO. 31-3025-136) AND REPROGRAM ONE CONSULAR SPECIALIST POSITION (NO. 028) AS SOON AS THE CONSULAR SECTION SPACE REARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE EMBASSY WILL ENDEAVOUR TO UNDERTAKE THE RECOMMENDED REDUCED STAFFING LEVEL UPON COMPLETION OF THE REMODELING OF THE CONSULAR SECTION AND A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THAT SECTION'S STAFFING NEEDS BASED UPON ANTICIPATED WORKLOAD LEVELS.

(D) RECOMMENDATION 5.5-4: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD DESIGNATE A JUNIOR OFFICER OUTSIDE THE CONSULAR SECTION TO PROVIDE PART-TIME BACK-UP ASSISTANCE TO THE CONSULAR SECTION WHENEVER ONE OF THE TWO REMAINING CONSULAR OFFICERS IS ABSENT FOR MORE THAN A FEW DAYS DURING BUSY SEASONS.

ASSUMING THE THIRD OFFICER POSITION IN THE CONSULAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECTION IS ELIMINATED, THE EMBASSY WILL DESIGNATE ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER TO SERVE AS A BACK-UP CONSULAR OFFICER, AS NEEDED.

(E) RECOMMENDATION 7.5-1: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD EXAMINE EMBASSY COPENHAGEN'S AUTOMATED EXPENDABLE SUPPLY AND STOCKAGE SYSTEM AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE SYSTEM IN STOCKHOLM IF FEASIBLE. THE EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED THE FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING AN AUTOMATED EXPENDABLE SUPPLY AND STOCKAGE SYSTEM SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN COPENHAGEN. INITIAL ESTIMATES FOR EQUIPMENT AND TIME SHARING COSTS ARE AROUND \$25,000 FOR THE FIRST YEAR WHICH REPRESENT MOSTLY ONE-TIME COSTS. WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS NOT ELIMINATED THIS POSSIBILITY, IT IS CONTINUING TO REVIEW OTHER ALTERNATIVES, AND IF ONE CAN BE FOUND TO BE COST EFFECTIVE, WE WILL SEEK EUR'S APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT IT. PERHAPS, ULTIMATELY, STOCKHOLM MAY BE ABLE TO LINK INTO COPENHAGEN'S SYSTEM AT FAR LESS COST. AT THIS TIME, BASED ON THE INITIAL COST ESTIMATES, THE EMBASSY CANNOT JUSTIFY AN EXPENDITURE OF THIS

MAGNITUDE.

(F) RECOMMENDATION 7.5-2: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD BETTER ORGANIZE PRESENT STORAGE SPACE, REMOVING SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FROM PASSAGEWAYS AND OTHER NON-STORAGE AREAS. CREATION OF A CAGED-IN STORAGE AREA IN THE GARAGE SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION, THE EMBASSY HAS ADDED A CAGED-IN STORAGE AREA IN THE GARAGE WHICH, WE FEEL, WILL GIVE US SUFFICIENT STORAGE SPACE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN ADDITION, THE EMBASSY IS IN THE PROCESS OF SPONSORING ANOTHER EXCESS PROPERTY SALE, WHICH WILL REDUCE STORAGE PROBLEMS EVEN FURTHER. EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO SEE TO IT THAT ALL STORAGE SPACE IS USED EFFICIENTLY.

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(G) RECOMMENDATION 7.5-3: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD COMMENCE A NEW PHYSICAL INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FOLLOWING THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN 6 FAM 232. A REINVENTORY OF ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY HAS BEGUN AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN MARCH 1977; IT WILL BE MAINTAINED REGULARLY THEREAFTER.

(H) RECOMMENDATION 7.5-4: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM STOCK RECORDS SHOULD BE UPDATED AND REVISED TO REFLECT THE LOCATION OF ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY. ALL INVENTORIES AND STOCK RECORDS ARE BEING UPDATED AND WILL REFLECT AND LOCATION OF ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY.

(I) RECOMMENDATION 7.5-5: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD IMPROVE ITS RESIDENTIAL INVENTORYING PROCEDURES. PHYSICAL INVENTORIES OF RESIDENTIAL FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS SHOULD BE TAKEN JOINTLY BY GSO STAFF AND RESIDENTS WHEN QUARTERS ARE OCCUPIED AND VACATED AS PRESCRIBED BY 6 FAM 232.2. THE EMBASSY HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE GREATLY ITS

RESIDENTIAL INVENTORYING PROCEDURES. MANY RESIDENTIAL INVENTORIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED AND THE REMAINDER WILL BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY 1977. THEREAFTER, RESIDENTIAL INVENTORIES WILL BE REVIEWED WHENEVER QUARTERS ARE OCCUPIED OR VACATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS.

(J) RECOMMENDATION 7.5-6: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE ALL LOCAL EMPLOYEES COVERED UNDER A RETIREMENT PLAN--PREFERABLY A LOCALLY ADMINISTERED ONE.

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THE EMBASSY IS CONFERRING WITH SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF ENROLLING FSLs IN A LOCALLY ADMINISTERED RETIREMENT PLAN. THIS HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT IN STOCKHOLM 7041 (1976). THE EMBASSY IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH RETIREMENT COVERAGE OF FSLs UNDER THE SWEDISH PLAN.

(K) RECOMMENDATION 7.5A-1: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD, FOLLOWING THE FINAL ACTION BY THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE HOUSING LAW, REVIEW THE NUMBER OF APARTMENTS PRESENTLY LEASED IN THE OXENSTEIRNSGATAN PROPERTY, IN THE LIGHT OF THE AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING IN THE OPEN MARKET, WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF UNITS RENTED AND THE NUMBER OF EMBASSY STAFF FAMILIES WHO VOLUNTARILY WISH TO OCCUPY THEM.

THE EMBASSY HAS RAISED THIS IMPORTANT MATTER IN A LETTER TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EUR AND EXPECTS A REPLY SOON. UNLESS APPROVED BY EUR/EX AND FBO, THE EMBASSY WOULD, OF COURSE, BE UNABLE TO IMPLEMENT THIS RECOMMENDATION. THE ADVANTAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE OFFERING PERSONNEL A CHOICE OF LIVING IN GOVERNMENT LONG-TERM LEASED QUARTERS OR ON THE ECONOMY, AND IMPROVED EMPLOYEE MORALE FOR THOSE NOT WISHING TO RESIDE IN THE STAFF APARTMENTS. THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF OCCUPIED APARTMENTS WOULD ALSO REDUCE THE MAINTENANCE BURDEN ON THE GENERAL SERVICES SECTION. THE DISADVANTAGES WOULD INCLUDE THE HIGHER COST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIVATELY-LEASED UNITS AND THE INHERENT DELAYS IN GETTING NEW PERSONNEL SETTLED IN. THERE IS ALSO THE PROBLEM OF A CONTINUING SHORTAGE OF SUITABLE HOUSING LOCATED NEAR THE EMBASSY.

(L) RECOMMENDATION 7.5A-2: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ASSURE THAT PUBLIC AREAS AT THE STAFF APARTMENTS ARE ADEQUATELY MAINTAINED. IF IT IS UNABLE TO PERSUADE THE LESSOR TO FULFILL HIS LEASE OBLIGATIONS, THE SERVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE

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EMBASSY GSO.

THE EMBASSY HAS TAKEN THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC AREAS AT THE STAFF APARTMENTS ARE MAINTAINED. THE LESSOR HAS REDUCED THE RENTAL RATE AND THE EMBASSY HAS CONTRACTED TO HAVE THE COMMON AREAS MAINTAINED REGULARLY. AS THE MATTER IS NOW UNDER EMBASSY CONTROL AND NOT THAT OF THE LESSOR, NO FUTURE DIFFICULTIES ARE ANTICIPATED.

(M) RECOMMENDATION 7.5A-3: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD, IF NECESSARY, OBTAIN THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY TO REQUIRE THE LESSOR TO FULFILL HIS MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE STAFF APARTMENTS. AS A RESULT OF THE LESSOR'S AGREEMENT TO REDUCE THE RENTAL RATE, THE EMBASSY HAS CONTRACTED THE MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PUBLIC AREAS OF THE STAFF APAREMENTS. THE SERVICES OF AN ATTORNEY WILL NOT, THEREFORE, BE REQUIRED.

(N) RECOMMENDATION 9.3-1: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD, IN CONCERT WITH CONSULATE GENERAL GOTEBOG, DELINEATE THE EMPHASIS TO BE PLACED ON THE CONSULAR, COMMERCIAL, REPRESENTATIONAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL. SINCE THE INSPECTION, THE CONSUL GENERAL AT GOTEBOG HAS RECEIVED SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FROM THE EMBASSY AS TO WHAT EMPHASIS IS TO BE PLACED ON THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONAL ACTIVITIES UNDER HIS RESPONSIBILITY.

(O) RECOMMENDATION 9.3-2: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM AND CONSULATE GENERAL GOTEBOG SHOULD REVISE THE LAYOUT OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL TO PERMIT ADEQUATE SUPERVISION OF STATUTORY CONSULAR FUNCTIONS AND MORE EFFICIENT WORK FLOW.

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THE EMBASSY AND THE AMERICAN OFFICERS OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL STAFF HAVE CONSIDERED THIS RECOMMENDATION VERY CAREFULLY. BOTH OFFICERS AT GOTEBOG CONSIDER THAT ADQUATE SUPERVISION OF ALL CONSULAR FUNCTIONS NOW EXISTS. WE BELIEVE AT THIS TIME THAT THE ADDITIONAL COSTS INHERENT IN ANY REVISION OF THE OFFICE LAYOUT WOULD NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT IMPROVEMENTS TO JUSTIFY THE EXPENSE INVOLVED.

(P) RECOMMENDATION 9.3-3: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM AND EUR/EX SHOULD MAKE LONG-RANGE PLANS RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR ASSIGNMENT OF A TDY CONSULAR OFFICER TO GOTEBOG DURING PERIODS OF EXTENDED ABSENCES OF ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE TWO AMERICAN OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE POST.

LONG-RANGE PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE AND TESTED SUCCESSFULLY DURING THE UNANTICIPATED PROLONGED ABSENCE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL FROM GOTEBOG. EVERY EFFORT WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT THE CONSULATE GENERAL AMERICAN STAFFING IS ADEQUATE BY FIRST CALLING UPON EMBASSY RESOURCES AND, IF NECESSARY, SEEKING THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE WITH A TDY'ER.

(Q) RECOMMENDATION 10.5-1: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD ARRANGE A FULLER EXCHANGE OF SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE WITH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SECTIONS.

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THE DAO IN THE PAST HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SECTIONS AND THE CONVERSE IS ALSO TRUE. HOWEVER, ALL PARTIES HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT OF THIS RECOMMENDATION AND THE EXCHANGE AND COORDINATION OF SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING IS IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION.

(R) RECOMMENDATION 10.5-2: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD REEXAMINE THE STATED PRIORITIES IN THE NEXT USIS COUNTRY PLAN TO ENSURE THAT THEY REFLECT AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROBLEM VIS-A-VIS SWEDEN, AND THEREUPON, REVIEW THE CONTENT OF THE USIS COUNTRY PLAN IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED.

IN PREPARATION OF THE DRAFTING OF THE FY 78 COUNTRY PROGRAM PLAN, A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE USIS COUNTRY OBJECTIVES HAS BEEN INITIATED TO ADJUST THEM AS MUCH AS CURRENT USIA PRIORITIES PERMIT TO CHANGES IN THE SWEDISH PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE AND IN SWEDISH CONCERNS REGARDING THE UNITED STATES. THE OBJECTIVES ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY USIA WHICH ENCOURAGES POSTS TO ADOPT AS COUNTRY OBJECTIVES REGIONAL OBJECTIVES FORMU-

LATED BY THE AGENCY.

(S) RECOMMENDATION 11.5-1: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM'S COMMISSARY SHOULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF PROCURING FOODSTUFFS FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. THE COMMISSARY HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF PROCURING FOODSTUFFS FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, THROUGH UNITED STATES MILITARY FACILITIES, AND FROM US SOURCES TO OBTAIN PRODUCTS FROM DEPENDABLE SUPPLIERS AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COST (INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION).

(T) RECOMMENDATION 11.5B-1: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM A PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM AS TO HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE ADQUATE INTERNAL CONTROL WITHIN STAFFING LIMITATIONS. THE EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED A PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM (PRICE WATERHOUSE AND CO.) FOR GUIDANCE. THE FIRM HAS ADVISED THAT WITH THE LIMITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STAFFING OF THE COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SWEDEN, THEY COULD RECOMMEND NO CHANGES IN PROCEDURE WITHOUT AN INCREASE IN THE COMMISSION'S STAFF, WHICH THEY DO NOT FEEL IS JUSTIFIED FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER, PRICE WATERHOUSE STATED REPEATEDLY THAT FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED PROPERLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW NO. 87-256.

(U) RECOMMENDATION 12-3: THE SCIENCE ATTACHE'S OFFICE IN STOCKHOLM SHOULD, PENDING THE INSTITUTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING PROGRAM COVERING ITS WORK, SUBMIT TO WASHINGTON ITS OWN RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING ITS PROPOSED REPORTING WORK FOR THE COMING YEAR, REQUESTING WASHINGTON'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON.

IN JULY 1976, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION, THE SCIENCE ATTACHE SUBMITTED A DETAILED REPORT AND REQUESTED OES GUIDANCE ON HIS WORK PROGRAM FOR THE COMING YEAR. THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER REVIEW IN OES.

(V) RECOMMENDATION 12-4: THE SCIENCE ATTACHE'S OFFICE IN EMBASSY STOCKHOLM SHOULD PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON REPORTING THE SUBSTANCE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SWEDISH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE CONCRETE PRODUCT THAT MAY CONCEIVABLY EMERGE FROM IT OVER THE MEDIUM TO LONG TERM, RATHER THAN ON THE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CONDUCT THE RESEARCH.

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THE EMBASSY HAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THIS RECOMMENDATION.
THE TYPE AND FREQUENCY OF FUTURE REPORTING BY THE
SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE WILL RELATE DIRECTLY TO THE RESPONSE
FPROVIDED BY OES (SEE RECOMMENDATION 12-3). UNTIL THE
MATTER IS RESOLVED BY OES, THE SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE'S
AIRGRAM REPORTS WILL CONSIST OF TWO KINDS: (1) TUTORIAL-
MISSION, ORGANIZATION, PERSONNEL, PROGRAMS AND BUDGET;
AND (2) ANALYTICAL-EMPHASIS ON THE NATURE OF THESE
PROGRAMS, THEIR PROBABLE OUTCOME AND PROMISING AREAS
IN WHICH AMERICAN AND SWEDISH SCIENTISTS MIGHT EFFECTIVELY
COOPERATE.

3. I WISH TO STRESS THAT ALL THE MEMBERS OF MY STAFF
AND I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE
WHATEVER REMAINING STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH
THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS. ALL OF US APPRECIATE
THE HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICE
PROVIDED BY THE INSPECTORS, AND THE FRIENDLY MANNER IN
WHICH IT WAS TENDERED. WE FEEL SURE THAT EFFICIENCY
HAS BEEN IMPROVED AS A RESULT OF THEIR VISIT. I AM
FULLY SATISFIED THAT EMBASSY STOCKHOLM AND CONSULATE
GENERAL GOTEBOG ARE NOW OPERATING AT A PEAK OF
EFFICIENCY IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF EXCELLENT STAFF
MORALE.

SMITH

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